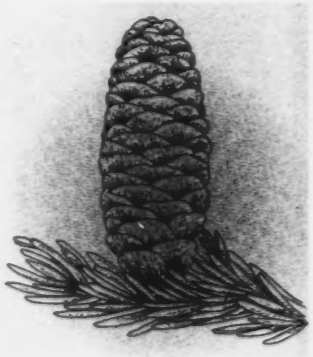
Discussion Paper

Draft

Towards a Forest Policy Framework for the Yukon

A collaborative effort between Yukon Government, Yukon First Nations, Renewable Resource Councils and the Federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

August 4, 2003



Yukon
Energy, Mines and Resources

Purpose

On February 5, 6 and 7 of 2003, representatives of Yukon government, First Nation governments, Renewable Resource Councils and the Federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development came together in a workshop with the following purpose:

> *"To identify and reach agreement on the key themes and principles that should form the basis of a Yukon Forest Policy Framework to guide the future development of Yukon forestry legislation. "*

This discussion paper is a direct result of the workshop and will be released for full and open public consultation from August 2003 until December 15, 2003. This discussion paper builds on what we have heard in previous consultations with Yukoners.

Context

There have been five significant public consultations relevant to Yukon forest policy over the past 7 years:

- Forest Summit (2001)
- Yukon Forest Strategy (1998)
- Canada Forest Accord and National Forest Strategy (1998) – *Currently in a public process of revision and a new draft will be tabled by September of 2003*
- Yukon First Nations Statement of Beliefs – Forest Management (Draft – 1998)
- Draft Yukon Forest Management Policy (1996)

Workshop participants reviewed the principles for Yukon forest management and planning that are contained in these documents and determined whether they were acceptable or should be rejected. Workshop participants also proposed revisions and identified new principles required to address identified gaps.

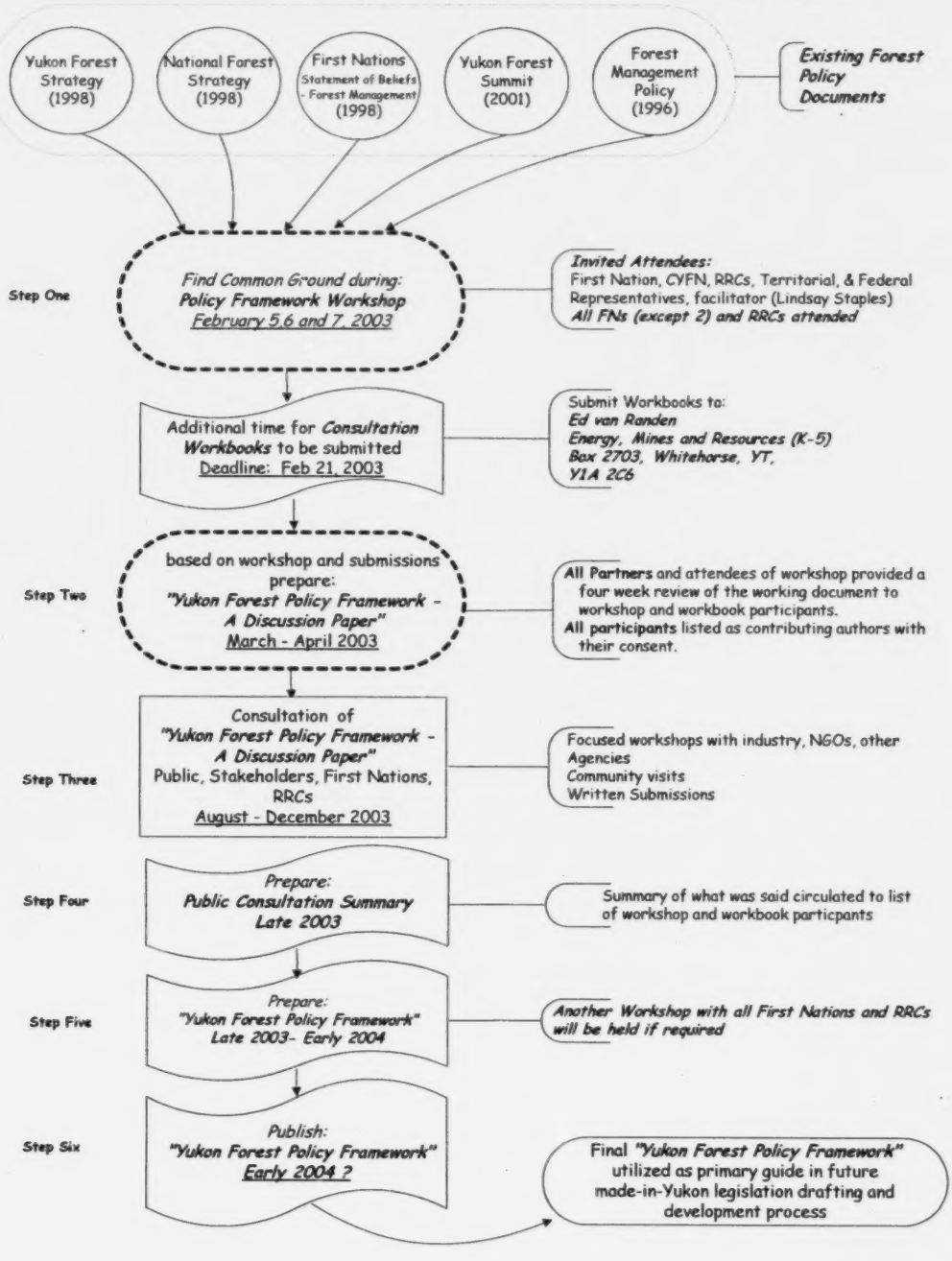
This publication is available in French upon request

Version française sur demande.

Process

Workshop participants agreed that following process should be followed:

Yukon Forest Policy Framework : An Evolving Process


Yukon Forest Strategy (1998)
National Forest Strategy (1998)
First Nations Statement of Beliefs - Forest Management (1998)
Yukon Forest Summit (2001)
Forest Management Policy (1996)
Existing Forest Policy Documents
Step One
Find Common Ground during: Policy Framework Workshop February 5,6 and 7, 2003
Invited Attendees: First Nation, CYFN, RRCs, Territorial, & Federal Representatives, facilitator (Lindsay Staples) All FNs (except 2) and RRCs attended
Additional time for Consultation Workbooks to be submitted Deadline: Feb 21, 2003
Submit Workbooks to: Ed van Randen Energy, Mines and Resources (K-5) Box 2703, Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 2C6
Step Two
based on workshop and submissions prepare: "Yukon Forest Policy Framework - A Discussion Paper" March - April 2003
All Partners and attendees of workshop provided a four week review of the working document to workshop and workbook participants. All participants listed as contributing authors with their consent.
Step Three
Consultation of "Yukon Forest Policy Framework - A Discussion Paper" Public, Stakeholders, First Nations, RRCs August - December 2003
Focused workshops with industry, NGOs, other Agencies Community visits Written Submissions
Step Four
Prepare: Public Consultation Summary Late 2003
Summary of what was said circulated to list of workshop and workbook particpants
Step Five
Prepare: "Yukon Forest Policy Framework" Late 2003- Early 2004
Another Workshop with all First Nations and RRCs will be held if required
Step Six
Publish: "Yukon Forest Policy Framework" Early 2004 ?
Final "Yukon Forest Policy Framework" utilized as primary guide in future made-in-Yukon legislation drafting and development process

Workshop Participants

It was understood by all participants that proposals and recommendations developed at the workshop were not binding on any of the participants, organizations or governments. The workshop was an opportunity to contribute to the authorship of a public discussion paper meant to lead to a final *Yukon Forest Policy Framework*.

All governments and organizations represented at the workshop will have further opportunities to review the principles for a forest policy framework during the formal consultation process planned for August to December 2003.

The following is a listing of the people who attended the workshop and have contributed to the authorship of this document:

1. Gordon Allisen - Champagne Aishihik FN	2. Graham Baird - Vuntut Gwitchin FN
3. Darrell Beattie - Carcross\Tagish FN	4. Paul Birckel - Champagne Aishihik FN
5. Mary Blair - White River FN	6. Peter Borotsik - Ta'an Kwach'an Council
7. Glen Bunbury - Ta'an Kwach'an Council	8. Carl Burgess – YG, Energy Mines and Resources
9. Boyd Campbell - Alsek RRC	10. Scott Cole – DIAND, Forest Resources
11. Greg Cowman – DIAND, Forest Resources	12. Dan Cresswell - Carcross\Tagish FN
13. John Devries - Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council	14. Dennis Dickson - Kluane FN
15. Lyle Dinn – DIAND Forest Resources	16. Jack Fraser - Dawson RRC
17. Brandy Greenwood - Teslin RRC	18. Adam Grindle - Teslin RRC
19. Terrance Hanlon - Carmacks RRC	20. Birch Howard - North Yukon RRC
21. Stephen Jakesta - Kaska Dena Council	22. Danny Joe - Selkirk RRC
23. David Johnny - Selkirk RRC	24. Jimmy Johnny - Mayo RRC
25. Mary Jane Johnson - Kluane FN	26. Luke Johnson - Kluane FN
27. Margaret Johnson - Southern Tutchone Tribal Council	28. Shelby Jordon -Dawson RRC
29. Vicky Josie - North Yukon RRC	30. William Josie - Vuntut Gwitchin FN
31. Ken Kiemele – YG, Environment	32. Rose Kushniruk - Alsek RRC
33. John Joe Kyikavickik- Vuntut Gwitchin FN	34. Anne Leckie -Nacho Nyak Dun FN
35. Dixon Lutz - Liard FN	36. Keith Maguire - Council of Yukon First Nations
37. Don Marino - Carmacks RRC	38. Norm MacLean - Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council
39. Allan Miller - Kaska Tribal Council	40. Gary Miltenberger - DIAND Forest Resources
41. Jolene Murphy - White River FN	42. John Pattimore - Ta'an Kwach'an Council
43. Albert Peter - Nacho Nayk Dun FN	44. Geraldine Pope - Ta'an Kwach'an Council
45. Dan Reams Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council	46. Rick Riemer - Dawson RRC
47. Bernice Shonewille - Teslin RRC	48. Richard Sidney - Dakh ka Council
49. Jack Smith - Mayo RRC	50. Lindsay Staples - Northwest Resource Consulting (facilitator)

51. Clifford McLeod - Ross River Dena Council	52. Jayne Suncomeau - Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council
53. Myles Thorp – DIAND, Forest Resources	54. Ed van Randen – YG, Energy Mines and Resources
55. Blanche Warrington - Teslin Tlingit Council	56. Michael White - YG, Environment
57. Frances Woolsey - Ta'an Kwach'an Council	58. Deb Wortley – DIAND, Forest Resources

The following individuals were not able to participant in the workshop. These contacts will be kept advised of all steps in the process and have been asked to contribute in the same manner as those who attended the workshop:

1. Joe Bellmore - Little Salmon Carmacks	2. Styd Klugies/Fred Green - Selkirk FN
3. Dorothy Bill / Joshua Smith - Kwanlin Dun FN	4. Steve Caram – Tr'ondek Hwech'in

Of note is that DIAND staff listed above are now Yukon government employees as a result of the devolution transfer agreement that took effect on April 1, 2003.

Opportunities for Your Participation:

The Yukon government, First Nations, renewable resource councils and the federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development have contributed in part to the authorship of this document.

We welcome your comments on this discussion paper. Input can be provided in a number of ways:

- Individual and group meetings can be arranged with Yukon government forestry staff to discuss the document and provide input as appropriate. These sessions can include presentations or facilitated workshops if requested;
- You can contact us by phone; or
- Throughout the document you are prompted for your comments. You may use the prompts, or you can submit comments in any other fashion that is suitable or comfortable for you. Such comments can be submitted in writing, by e-mail, by visiting our Web site, by fax or to our mailing address.

To arrange for a meeting, or to submit comments or questions you may have on this draft or the current consultation process, please contact:

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http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca

Vision

"Our vision is to maintain a fully functioning forest ecosystem that benefits all living things, while providing environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits for present and future generations" (modified from *Yukon Forest Strategy 1998*).

Do you agree with this Vision Statement?

Do you have any modifications to suggest?

Introduction

Yukon people realize that our economy and lifestyle must be in balance with our natural environment. The principles of social, economic, environmental and cultural sustainability must be applied to the Yukon's forests. These themes have been expressed consistently during public consultations regarding forestry.

With devolution, Yukon people will now have more control of their forest resources, and have an opportunity to see their vision embodied into clear, modern forestry legislation. However, before we draft a "Yukon Forest Act", we need to first agree on the base principles that will guide these efforts. Additionally as First Nations consider developing legislation or regulations that will apply to settlement lands, an agreement on base principles will help the development of a consistent regime for forest management across all Yukon jurisdictions.

The following diagram shows where a *Yukon Forest Policy Framework* fits into the accepted Canadian process for developing forestry legislation:

A final *Yukon Forest Policy Framework* will provide the needed guidance and direction to begin the future process of drafting modern forestry legislation.

This discussion paper presents the results from a workshop held Feb 5, 6 and 7, 2003 at which First Nations, Renewable Resource Councils, Yukon government and the federal department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development reviewed and proposed principles that should guide forest management in the Yukon.

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The Yukon Forest Resource

More than half of the Yukon — about 27 million hectares (57 percent) — is forested. While only 15 per cent of our forest is considered capable of growing trees of sufficient size and quantity to warrant "commercial" forest harvesting activities, our relationship to our forests extends well beyond just commercial use.

The Yukon's forests contribute to the quality of our lives. They help to regulate water cycling and prevent soil erosion. They provide habitat for wildlife. They provide recreational opportunities, and are the source of many cultural and traditional values.

Forests are important to the Yukon's economy. Activities such as timber harvesting, wood products manufacturing, recreation, fishing, trapping, outfitting, wilderness tourism and hunting all provide economic benefits to the Yukon. Timber harvesters and processors make use of dead trees for fuel wood and lumber and use green trees for dimensioned lumber or other value added wood products.

The Yukon forest resource presents some distinct challenges to forest managers. The forest land base is widely dispersed and varies in its productivity. Most of our forest lacks permanent access roads. The wilderness character of an undeveloped forest is considered by some to be our greatest asset, yet reasonable road access to harvesting areas is essential to a sustainable forest industry. These, and other challenges, must be considered in forest policy development.

Forest lands (excluding parks) in the Yukon are managed by governments: First Nations (8-15 per cent), Yukon (85-90 per cent) and Federal (<1 per cent), and in areas with established agreements, renewable resource councils and forest councils have a mandated advisory role in forest management and policy development.

Our Commitment

On numerous occasions, we have asked Yukon people to participate in the creation of a made-in-the-Yukon vision for forest management. The draft Yukon Forest Management Policy (1996), The Forest Strategy (1998) and the Forest Summit (2001) were important steps along this pathway. We are committed to building on these initiatives.

Some common messages that have emerged from these past processes include the following:

- Yukon forests are an important homeland to people, wildlife and habitats. Our natural and undeveloped forests are important to our identity, traditions, lifestyles and environmental and economic well-being. These resources and values must be treated with respect.
- Yukon forests also present significant opportunities for sustainable economic growth. Our forest resources can support increased opportunities for timber harvesting and the wood products manufacturing industry. As well, our non-timber forest resources can support economic opportunities for tourism, trapping, outfitting and hunting.
- Our forest resources must be managed and developed on a sustainable basis. This means that they must be managed in a way that balances economic, social and cultural needs with the need to protect long-term ecosystem health.
- We must respect traditional values and First Nation Agreements regarding forest planning, management and development processes in the Yukon.
- We must make it easy for those who work in the forest to "do the right thing" and difficult for them to "do the wrong thing".
- We must ensure that forests contribute to the prosperity of all Yukon people.
- Community participation and government accountability must be cornerstones for forest management policies.

To begin building towards this vision, workshop participants have proposed seven themes as the basic framework of our forest policy. The seven themes of this framework are:

1) Preamble - General
2) Relationships and Participation
3) The Forest Environment
4) The Forest Economy
5) Management and Planning
6) Education, Training and Capacity Building
7) Research and Innovation

1. Preamble - General

The preamble includes general statements that apply to all the themes in this document. We want to know what you think of the following statements.

Policy Vision

That the following general statements will guide all Forest management:

Proposed Policy Framework Statements:

- Forest management will be carried out in accordance with First Nation Agreements, consistent with the spirit, intent and legal requirements of the Umbrella Final Agreement, and will be harmonized with other relevant policies and legislation.
- Continued resolution and implementation of land claim and aboriginal self-government agreements is fundamental to creating a stable environment for sustainable forest management.
- The principle of sustainably will guide the management and use of forest resources.
- Forest Policy and legislation should build a foundation for forest resource development that reflects local community needs, aspirations and values.
- The management of Yukon forest resources requires integrated, balanced and accountable decision-making.
- Ethical conduct on the part of all those who direct, practice or judge the performance of forest management is essential.
- Health, safety and job satisfaction are priorities for people who work in forest related industries.

Do you agree with the statements in Section 1 - Preamble - General?

Do you have any modifications or new statements to suggest?

2. Relationships and Participation

In the Yukon, a respectful relationship between governments, stakeholders and the public is fundamental to ensuring sound forest management. To achieve this we're proposing to use the following vision and framework as a guide. We want to know if you think the following vision and statements will help us reach our goal.

Policy Vision

Enable a spirit of co-operation and respect as we manage all Yukon forests.

Effective and timely participation in forest policy and planning processes are essential and carry obligations and responsibilities for all involved.

Proposed Policy Framework Statements:

a) First Nation Peoples and Government

- Yukon First Nation peoples and governments have an important and integral role in forest policy development, planning and management. Forest management in Yukon, therefore, must recognize and make provision for comprehensive land claims rights and responsibilities, and respect the values and traditions of First Nation's peoples who require the forests for their livelihood, community and cultural identity.
- In this respect:
    - Relationships between governments will be fair, equitable and respectful; recognizing the rights and responsibilities outlined in First Nation agreements;
    - First Nations agreements state that governments and resource councils have specific obligations to consult one another on a variety of matters related to forest management, and adequate time must be allowed for review and comment on management initiatives and strategies;
    - New legislation will make specific provisions for the First Nation and Yukon Indian People rights and the associated conditions identified in chapter 17.3 of the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA);
    - Human and financial resources will be shared between governments, where practical to do so, to improve forest management;
    - Governments, recognizing their area of jurisdictions, will endeavor to build cooperative and integrated frameworks for forest research, planning, use, and management, and should seek to integrate planning and management between settlement and non-settlement lands;
    - Forest resource harvesting and management customs of Yukon Indian people should be respected; and
    - To address their legitimate needs and aspirations, First Nation communities require equitable opportunities to access forest resources, and increased

capacity to benefit economically from the forests on their settlement lands and in their traditional territory.

b) International and National

- Cooperation among the world's nations is essential to enhance the capacity of countries to maintain, improve and rehabilitate the health of the planet's circumpolar boreal forests.
- The Yukon has a responsibility to assist and work cooperatively with other jurisdictions in the sustainable management of circumpolar boreal forests.
- Respect for international and national obligations is necessary for achieving sustainable circumpolar boreal forest management.

c) Yukon Communities

- Communities depend on forests, either fully or partly, and have a vital stake in the continuing flow of economic, environmental and social benefits arising from management of Yukon's forest. Communities must be recognized as key stakeholders and participate fully in discussions about resource management issues that affect them.
- Yukon forests should be managed in a way that respects local values, lifestyles and objectives.

d) Yukon Public

- The public should be provided with opportunities for input into the development of Yukon forest management policies, legislation and plans.
- Planning processes must encompass all stakeholders including: industry, community members and all land users.

Do you agree with the Policy Vision?

Do you agree with the statements in Section 2 - Relationships and Participation?

Do you have any modifications or new statements to suggest?

3. The Forest Environment

Stewardship is the care and safeguarding of our forest resource. Forests are more than simply a collection of trees. They function as complex ecosystems where plants, animals and physical factors such as soil and water interact and are dependent on each other. We are proposing to use the following vision and framework as a guide to achieving stewardship. We want to know if you think the following vision and statements will help us reach our goal.

Policy Vision

Forest use will be guided by the principle of sustainability.

The Yukon's forests will be managed in such a way as to maintain, over time, the natural quality of the physical environment (i.e. air, soil, and water) and the natural variety of our biological species.

Proposed Policy Framework Statements:

- Forest resources will be used sustainably employing an ecosystem-based management approach:
    - Ensure forest ecosystem processes, structures and functions are sustained over time;
    - Ensure that the ecosystem, species and genetic diversity are maintained over time;
    - Ensure forest use is carried out within the sustainable capability of the forest;
    - The sustainable use and management of forest ecosystems should strive to maintain essential ecological processes, biological diversity, productivity, resilience and capacity for renewal; and
    - Develop a suite of best practices for ecosystem based forest management for the Yukon that:
        - are based on natural disturbances regimes and integrated information (traditional knowledge and science);
        - provide direction on the forest management techniques that can be used to achieve a desired future state of the forest; and
        - are flexible enough to allow for regional variations and can incorporate new information in a timely manner.
- Healthy ecosystems are essential to maintain the quality of life and requires:
    - Maintaining the health of Yukon's forest ecosystems to ensure their continued contribution to the health of the earth's environment;
    - Restoring and maintaining the health of Yukon forest ecosystems by focusing on ecological integrity, biological diversity, and long-term forest productivity;
    - Defining forest health; and

- Coordinating an interagency system that establishes and tracks changes to forest health, using a "bench-mark" approach and utilizing local/community-based resources.

- Incorporating natural disturbances requires:
  - Forest legislation to provide direction about natural disturbances including:
    - Incorporating suppression and the ecological processes of fire while considering salvage opportunities;
    - Ensuring fire management planning and forest management planning initiatives are coordinated, for example:
      - integrate the implementation of pre-suppression plans with forestry operations; and
      - establish a clear relationship between the values and goals identified in forest management planning and fire management's zonation policy.
    - Detailing an expedient salvage response which may include the need to streamline rights issuances;
    - Allowing management & planning to consider how a natural disturbance regime maintains forest health;
    - Recognizing human influence on natural disturbance regimes;
    - Identifying monitoring as part of forest management planning;
    - Flexibility based on opportunities, local needs and interests; and
    - Encouraging more education to reduce human caused events.

Do you agree with the Policy Vision?

Do you agree with the statements in Section 3 - The Forest Environment?

Do you have any modifications or new statements to suggest?

4. The Forest Economy

The forest provides economic opportunities for individuals and communities. Responsible development of our forest economy will ensure equitable opportunities for both timber and non-timber forest activities. We are proposing to use the following vision and framework as a guide to achieving responsible development. We want to know if you think the following vision and statements will help us reach our goal.

Policy Vision

All economic values will be considered in developing a balanced, sustainable and stable forest economy.

To provide a variety of forest tenure opportunities, in order to provide certainty for the forest industry and encourage long-term investment and responsible management.

Encouraging those who work in the forest to be responsible, and making it difficult for them to act irresponsibly.

Proposed Policy Framework Statements:

a) General:

- Diversified forest use contributes significantly to the social, spiritual, cultural and environmental well-being of Yukon society;
- Maintaining a diverse forest economy contributes to Yukon's capacity to conserve its forest ecosystems and maintain high environmental standards;
- Government needs to fund the development of basic public infrastructure that will help develop the forest industry over time. Examples might include multi-use roads, bridges, power and telephone;
- There is a need to be able to designate multi-use roads from forestry roads so that forest operators can effectively participate in access management, including seasonal closures and full decommissioning;
- There is a need to maximize the utilization of the wood from right-of-way clearings and other salvage opportunities. A common sense approach should be employed, one that would be able to consider distance to markets and the quality of the wood.

b) Tenure and allocation:

- Forest land tenure systems must balance rights with responsibilities, encourage sound forest stewardship, sustain forest resources and provide opportunities for fair return on investments;
- Provide opportunities at a variety of scales (from very small to relatively large) so that a diverse set of forest businesses can be developed and supported;
- A range of tenure options should be developed, including volume based tenures, area based tenures, woodlots style tenures, community tenures, First Nation tenures, specialty product tenures, such as burls, diamond willow and roots;

- Opportunities for communities to have easier access to small volumes of wood (planned and screened) must be provided;
- A variety of tenure lengths should be developed, from single year to replaceable based on good performance;
- Tenure arrangements should address local processing opportunities and be flexible enough to survive the cyclic nature of markets;
- We expect legislation to contain detail on:
  - how tenures are awarded;
  - what tenure types will be available;
  - the length of time each tenure type is for;
  - the responsibility for silviculture, fire, roads in different tenure arrangements;
  - transferability in a way that minimizes speculative enterprises;
  - how to handle overlapping land users and tenure holders such as trappers & outfitters; and
  - the monitoring, compliance and enforcement expected of tenure holders.
- We will strive to complete land claims, land use plans, forest management plans, timber supply analyses (TSA) and establish annual allowable cuts (AAC) before allocating long term tenure;
- In the absence of completed plans, conservative "interim" harvest levels and areas should be identified with stakeholder, First Nation and community participation;
- Credible timber supply analyses need to be established, after which governments will determine an annual allowable cut.
- Timber supply analyses and the determination of annual allowable cuts must include some consultation with the affected First Nations, renewable resource councils, forest councils, stakeholders and the public; and
- Required utilization levels should strive to match the local industry's abilities and aspirations, while still seeking to maximize the use of the full timber profile.

c) Sustainable multiple benefits:

- Provide for a wide range of economic, social, cultural and environmentally sustainable benefits from the use and management of the forest;
- Seek to enable the development of a prosperous and healthy forest economy that supports stable communities with meaningful employment and viable business and subsistence opportunities;
- Forest Management Planning should consider all aspects of the forest economy, such as, but not limited to: logging, milling, trapping, tourism, outfitting, and wilderness guiding and seek to develop forests in a manner that minimize conflicts and maximizes benefits for all concerned; and
- The assessment of all socio-economic contributions of Yukon's forests requires an understanding of the interrelationship between residents of forest communities and their surrounding forest ecosystem.

d) Local processing and export:

- Create an atmosphere that contributes to the development of local capacity within the sustainable limits of the forest resource;
- Ensure the consideration of Yukon markets, local utilization and surpluses before raw logs are exported from the territory;
- Encourage local use;
- There should be incentives that will encourage:
  - improved use of harvested trees;
  - improved 'stand utilization', reducing waste;
  - maximum utilization; and
  - new and/or value added products.
- There should be allowances made for the movement of raw logs within First Nations' traditional territories and in situations where trans-boundary claims exist; and
- Government should promote and assist Yukon forest businesses (in a manner similar to the way tourism is promoted).

e) Royalties and revenue

- Royalties and revenues need to be incentive based, but also uphold the principle that the public needs a fair return from harvesting activities;
- Yukon should strive for a simple stumpage system that is dynamic enough to allow some flexibility based on certain conditions, such as:
  - cost of harvesting, planning and management;
  - expected end use (e.g. extra stumpage for raw log export);
  - the type of reforestation or silviculture systems (e.g. Selection vs. clear cutting);
  - salvage (Quality of wood); and
  - different rates for special forest products.
- Stumpage should be used to encourage industry to improve, or alternatively reduce or "rebate" stumpage as industry actually makes improvements that lead to increased local processing;
- Stumpage should be spent on what it was intended for e.g. forestry activities; and
- Yukon should consider flexible stumpage rates on public infrastructure development, e.g. right-of-ways for power lines.

Do you agree with the Policy Vision?

Do you agree with the statements in Section 4 - The Forest Economy?

Do you have any modifications or new statements to suggest?

5) Management and Planning

Effective management of Yukon's forest resources will require timely and appropriate decisions. In many cases, these decisions must be made in the absence of complete or perfect information. We are proposing to use the following vision and framework as a guide to making good decisions. We want to know if you think the following vision and statements will help us reach our goal.

Policy Vision

A recognition that planning is necessary, and acts as an investment in the future of our forests; that while the cost of planning is expensive, there is even a higher cost for not planning.

To follow an adaptive approach to forest planning and management decisions. Decisions will be made after clear objectives are established. Monitoring will determine whether the goals are achieved. As experience is gained, approaches and policies will be reviewed and adjusted to be more effective.

Proposed Policy Framework Statements:

a) Information:

- We will strive to gather and maintain comprehensive inventories on key forest values;
- Management and planning decisions should be based on the best available scientific, local, and traditional knowledge; community aspirations; and experience;
- The knowledge and experience of the Yukon First Nation and non-First Nation people and the scientific communities will be used in all aspects of forest management and use;
- Ensure the information used in management decisions is reliable and supports the ecosystem-based management approach;
- Develop an integrated and accountable decision making processes for the management of Yukon forest resources;
- At all levels there is need for continued improvement in consultation and communication; and
- Consistent definitions of the following terms are required: ecosystem management, adaptive management, watershed management and sustainable management.

b) Forest Practices:

- Sustainable forest management requires an adaptive management approach, following exemplary forest practices that are grounded on the best available scientific knowledge and traditional knowledge; and
- Forestry practices must be based on a sound understanding of ecological principals and established management objectives.

c) Forest Planning:

- Planning should be community-based and include all partners;
- Ensure that specific objectives and priority areas identified in section 17.5 of First Nation Final Agreements are met;
- Forests will be planned, managed and used, through an integrated and balanced approach on a watershed or landscape basis, and recognize that there are different scales of watersheds and landscapes;
- Develop forest management plans in priority forest use areas;
- A forest planning manual should be developed that identifies at minimum the information requirements to be completed prior to harvesting that would streamline approval with existing and upcoming environmental assessment legislation;
- Forest Management Planning should be timely and allow for interim harvesting;
- Forest management should seek to be integrated within and between settlement and non-settlement lands;
- All forest related values, interests and uses must be considered in planning, and we must seek to integrate resource uses and land values;
- Forest management planning should be coordinated with other planning initiatives when implementing forest planning;
- Adjacent or overlapping forest management planning areas will share information and will seek the integration of management objectives in overlapping or shared watershed areas;
- Develop a standardized and efficient planning process, which seeks to integrate the different levels, scales and types of planning and screening processes;
- Planning must specifically address fire, insect, disease and other natural disturbances (blow-down, flooding);
- Forest planning should identify potential cumulative impacts and seek to minimize their impact to an acceptable level; and
- Identify simple, inexpensive and practical criteria and indicators of sustainability that can be monitored over time by governments and communities to assess if planning objectives are being met – an example may be reporting on road deactivation or the overall density of roads (km / km^2).

d) Access:

- Must consider the UFA references and references in other First Nation Agreements to access development on and through settlement lands;
- Must consider development issues are related to other government agencies (e.g. wildlife implications);
- Access planning must be coordinated with other agencies and other land users, and should include appropriate deactivation plans;
- There should be an ability to restrict access use, e.g. recreation and hunting and seasonal;
- There is a need to coordinate access development with trapping activities; and

- Access should be coordinated locally, using renewable resource councils as a key resource, and be flexible enough to deal with regional variations.

e) Regional Variation in Planning

- Regional variations occur in the Yukon, and are a result of variations throughout the Yukon in ecosystems, traditional knowledge, economic opportunities (timber profile), priorities, industry profile, access to markets, access to resources, government (e.g. tribal, municipal), resource councils, and the status of Final Agreements; therefore planning should be done at a regional level;
- Legislation should recognize and accommodate regional variation; and
- There should be a range of tenure options that would accommodate regional variations.

Do you agree with the Policy Vision?

Do you agree with the statements in Section 5 - Management and Planning?

Do you have any modifications or new statements to suggest?

6) Education, Training and Capacity Building

The management and use of our forests requires a skilled and knowledgeable public and workforce. We are proposing to use the following vision and framework as a guide to fostering a skilled and knowledgeable public and workforce. We want to know if you think the following vision and statements will help us reach our goal.

Policy Vision

Knowledgeable communities that participate in and benefit from the Yukon's forest planning and forest use.

Proposed Policy Framework Statements:

- Sustainable forest management and a competitive forest sector require a broad and continually evolving range of skills from diverse disciplines;
- Training and education are necessary for community stability and depend on long-term funding resources;
- Continuing education, training and the resources to meet these needs are the shared responsibility of employees, employers, governments, labour and educational institutions;
- Governments (federal, Yukon and First Nation) should seek to partner on the joint funding of education and training initiatives;
- Information, knowledge and experience should be shared between governments as well as with communities, forest users and resource councils;
- Opportunities should be provided for youth, forest users and members of planning teams to become informed about forest management issues, and in particular forest legislation, regulations and permitting, and forest practices (pre and post harvest);
- Governments and renewable resource councils should promote public awareness and understanding of forest management issues;
- Training opportunities for forest practioners and operators should be provided; and
- Standards for certification of forest practioners and operators should be developed and implemented.

Do you agree with the Policy Vision?

Do you agree with the statements in Section 6 - Education, Training and Capacity Building?

Do you have any modifications or new statements to suggest?

7) Research and Innovation

The ongoing development, refinement and improved application of our knowledge, expertise and management tools are fundamental to achieving our goal of wise forest management. We are proposing to use the following vision and framework as a guide to encouraging innovation and research. We want to know if you think the following vision and statements will help us reach our goal.

Policy Vision

To continually explore new ideas and techniques and allow a spirit of creativity to prevail as we seek solutions to our common challenges

Proposed Policy Framework Statements:

- Research and innovation requires a concerted and continuing commitment to forest research including long-term, stable funding (including "in kind") by all partners;
- Strong linkages between researchers and practitioners are essential in order to ensure the relevance and application of the results of forest research;
- The results of forest research must be communicated, evaluated and applied effectively;
- Yukon's progress in sustainable forest management requires integrated approaches and multidisciplinary research partnerships and networks, incorporating the natural and social sciences and traditional knowledge;
- Industry innovation should be encouraged through a combination of penalties, subsidies, incentives and allocations;
- "Outside" networking and partnerships are critical and Yukon must continue to be represented at international and national forums;
- The following research areas need priority:
    - market research (national & international) and forest economics research;
    - ecological and "impacts" research (linked with harvest planning);
    - new and developing waste/milling technologies;
    - post wildfire research (including salvage);
    - alternative road research (e.g. R.O.A.D.S. scholarship project);
    - the "business-end" of wood products and processing;
    - collective/centralized wood and waste processing as a capacity option;
    - Yukon-specific certification and marketing;
    - non-timber forest product research and innovative marketing (e.g. birch beer); and
    - deriving forest units of uniform ecosystem function to enable the concept of ecosystem integrity to be applied.
- Consider establishing an independent forest research group/forum/agency.

Do you agree with the Policy Vision?

Do you agree with the statements in Section 7 - Research and Innovation?

Do you have any modifications or new statements to suggest?

Conclusion

The intent of this draft discussion paper is to identify the key policy principles on which Yukon's forest should be managed. The next steps are to review your comments on this discussion paper and make the necessary changes in consultation with all First Nations and renewable resource councils late in 2003. Depending on the comments received, a decision of whether to release the document for another review, or move to a final published version will be made by early 2004. After completion of the framework, the Yukon government will begin the process of developing Yukon forest legislation.